

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1448  
By Dunn

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Representative William Clyde "Bubba" Pleasant, Jr., upon his meritorious service as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this Body should recognize those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented devotion and whose efforts to excel have brought substantial benefits to their respective communities and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative W.C. "Bubba" Pleasant's illustrious career in the House of Representatives will come to an end at the adjournment sine die of the 104<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, as he has announced his retirement from this august Body; and

WHEREAS, Representative Pleasant has for many years been a prominent and highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of Shelby County, and he has served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, the good people of House District 99 evinced their great faith in the political and governmental capabilities of W.C. "Bubba" Pleasant in 1996, by electing him as their representative to the General Assembly; he has been a member of the House of Representatives from the 100<sup>th</sup> through the 104<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies, and he has performed admirably in this position; and

WHEREAS, during his five terms and ten years in the House of Representatives, Representative Pleasant has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes his conscience; and

WHEREAS, a congenial and gracious gentleman, Representative Bubba Pleasant is best known in the legislature for imparting his common-sense wisdom through the folksy down-

to-earth stories he tells on the House floor and in committee as he strives to achieve his goal of getting everyone to get along, to be friendly, and especially to let us know that he “loves us all”; and

WHEREAS, Representative Pleasant is a dynamic and vital participant in the legislative process and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for the outstanding contributions he has made as Vice Chairman of the House Public Safety and Rural Roads Subcommittee; he has also served as a member of the House Transportation Committee, the House Consumer and Employee Affairs Committee, the House Education Committee, and the House Consumer Affairs Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of citizenship, Representative Pleasant has served as a valuable member of many civic, professional, and governmental organizations, including the Brunswick Civic Club, Bolton Civic Club, Bartlett Optimist Club, Variety Club International, Northeast Shelby Republicans, East Shelby Republican Club, International Association of Firefighters Local #1784, and University of Tennessee - Memphis Chancellor’s Roundtable; he is also a past Vice Chairman of the Shelby County Legislative Delegation; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Representative Pleasant received the Republican Award for Shelby County in 1999 and was honored as an Outstanding Representative by the County Officials Association of Tennessee in 2000; and

WHEREAS, born William Clyde Pleasant, Jr., on March 19, 1945, in Shelby County to Murrell Elizabeth Pleasant and the late William Clyde Pleasant, Sr., Bubba Pleasant attended Bolton High School, lettering in varsity basketball, and Memphis State University; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot, Representative Pleasant joined the United States Army upon graduation from high school and served six years before receiving an honorable discharge; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Bubba met and married his beloved wife, Martha Jane Patrick, and they moved next door to his parents, where he was born and raised. The farm holds over sixty years of wonderful, happy memories of his life as the Pleasants continue to reside there today. This small hamlet is known today as “Pleasantville;” and

WHEREAS, following in his father's footsteps, Bubba Pleasant spent seven years working at the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, before obtaining a position with the City of

Memphis Fire Department. In October of 2006, Representative Pleasant will retire from the City of Memphis Fire Department after thirty-three years of distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Bubba's brother, Tommy, was killed in a traffic accident just yards from their home at a very dangerous intersection. This sparked the future Representative Pleasant's interest in politics, as he and his father went to work contacting local officials to make the intersection safer. During his successful effort to get the intersection revamped, he met many locally elected officials, with former Representative Ed Haley becoming a lifelong friend and mentor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Bubba Pleasant is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Martha Jane Patrick Pleasant; together, they are the proud parents of four very successful children: William Clyde "Chip" Pleasant, III, and Kenneth Edward Pleasant, both of whom hold management positions, John Thomas Pleasant, who owns his own landscaping business, and Katherine Elizabeth Pleasant Petrowski, who is an esteemed and loved elementary teacher in the Shelby County School system, and four grandchildren, Cameron Lane Pleasant, Ethan Caleb Petrowski, Aiden Quinn Petrowski, and Landon Kyle Pleasant; and

WHEREAS, Bubba Pleasant is a generous and loving man. A Godly man who dearly loves his family and fellow man, he has loved his family with an unconditional love that is somewhat rare these days. His wife and children return that love - Bubba is their HERO. By example he has taught them to love the Lord, to work hard, and to always be honest and fair. No one can know the future, but at this time they are all heeding his advice. They are good and honest adults who love and respect others; and

WHEREAS, Representative Pleasant's announcement of his retirement from the General Assembly has greatly disappointed and disconcerted his fellow lawmakers, and his considerable talents and energies will be sorely missed by the good people of House District 99; and

WHEREAS, this Body finds it appropriate to bid farewell to our friend and colleague, Representative W.C. "Bubba" Pleasant; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Representative W.C. "Bubba" Pleasant, Jr. on his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of House District 99.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to Bubba Pleasant our best wishes for much success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Representative Pleasant as a token of our esteem.